

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

In the present response, claims 1-9 have been cancelled for consideration in a potential divisional application. As a result, claims 10-30 are currently pending. Claims 14-16, 26 and 30 have been withdrawn from consideration. Consequently, claims 10-13, 17-25, and 27-29 are currently pending and under consideration.

In item 1 of the Office Action, the applicants were required to elect one of the following invention groups:

Invention I: Claims 1-9, drawn to a method of sampling body fluid

Invention II: Claims 10-30, drawn to a device for sampling body fluid

In item 4 of the Office Action, the applicants were required to elect one of the following species:

Species 1: drawn to a deflection mechanism comprising cam arm (FIGS. 1-6)

Species 2: drawn to a deflection mechanism comprising a trigger and deflection arm (FIGS. 7-8)

In response to the restriction requirement, the Applicants hereby elect, without traversal, the Group II invention (claims 10-30, drawn to a device for sampling body fluid) for prosecution. As a result, claims 1-9 have been cancelled for consideration in a potential divisional application. In addition, the Applicants hereby elect, without traversal, Species 1 (FIGS. 1-6) for prosecution. Consequently, claims 14-16, 26, and 30 have been withdrawn from consideration. As noted in item 4 of the Office Action, pending claims 10, 24 and 27 are generic.

As a housekeeping matter, it should be noted that a Power of Attorney to Prosecute Applications Before the USPTO for Roche Diagnostics Operations, Inc., and a Statement Under 37 CFR 3.73(b) for this application have been enclosed with this response in order to update the Power of Attorney to the current customer number (41577). It is believed that the requirements to update the Power of Attorney for this application have been satisfied, but if additional documentation is required, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to quickly resolve the issue.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the applicants' undersigned representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

By /Charles P. Schmal #45,082/
Charles P. Schmal, Reg. No. 45,082
Woodard, Emhardt, Moriarty, McNett & Henry LLP
111 Monument Circle, Suite 3700
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-5137
(317) 634-3456